

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship at Stony Brook, Long Island on their 35th anniversary.

The name "Unitarian" was coined in the 16th century for Protestant dissenters who rejected the doctrine of the trinity. In practice, the term is used to identify those who believed in a loving god who would not condemn any of his creation, but rather would save all. The Unitarian Fellowship strives to create a compassionate community founded on trust, love, forgiveness and acceptance, where people of all backgrounds and persuasions can come together for worship.

Members of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Stony Brook have a variety of religious experiences and each offers their own intellectual, theological and spiritual stimulation to the group. Though the members are diverse in their background and experiences, they are uniform in their dedication and loyalty to the Lord. They are committed to achieving a world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all, and they believe that by encouraging spiritual growth and maintaining respect for one another this can be achieved.

I believe that an organization that honors human dignity, nurtures individual potential, and works for social justice and the common good deserves recognition. That is why, Mr. Speaker, I rise today in this hallowed Chamber and ask my colleagues for joining me today in celebration of this special anniversary for the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Stony Brook.

SMALL BUSINESS LEADERS IN LA JOLLA, CA

HON. BRIAN P. BILBRAY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 1997

Mr. BILBRAY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and admiration that I rise to commend a group of small business owners in the downtown Village of La Jolla who have contributed thousands of hours to improve the economic vitality of this area.

Starting with a small group of local business owners in 1987, this business association named their group "Promote La Jolla, Inc." The name identified their goal of developing, maintaining and promoting a healthy local business community. Capitalizing on the charming, picturesque nature of this 100-year-old seaside Village, they identified the visitor industry as a key element to long term economic strength and vitality. They worked with local tourism organization and developed special hosted day long events to this lively Village by the sea along with a promotional program to build positive awareness of La Jolla as a very desirable visitor destination.

Over this ten year period, this small group of business owners recognized that achieving economic vitality in a downtown area would require a much more complex strategic plan and a broader membership base. In 1992, this group of pioneering business owners joined with the City of San Diego to form the "La Jolla Business Improvement District."

Now, representing over 1,400 businesses covering a 30 block area, the La Jolla Business Improvement District is the largest in the State of California and one of the largest in the United States.

Combining the entrepreneurial energy of small business owners along with the leadership of this group of 15 dedicated Board members, the Promote La Jolla Business Improvement District has developed a comprehensive strategy of Promotions and Marketing, Beautification and Design, Economic Development and Restructuring.

This approach to improving economic vitality of the seaside Village of La Jolla has made Promote La Jolla Business Improvement District one of the leading business organizations in the City of San Diego.

The founding members of the board: Alexander Bende, Gerhard Klein, Robert Carlyle, David Brands and Friedhelm Worunann set the foundation for the latest group of board members who continue to donate hundreds of hours each year to improving the economic vitality of the historic 100-year-old downtown Village of La Jolla. This year, Mrs. Bende and Mrs. Klein celebrate ten years of dedicated service and executive director Christopher Stokes celebrates his fifth year.

I extend my best wishes to Bill Price, Alexander Bende, Candice Stephens, Joyce Snell, Jeff Stone, Gerhard Klein, Joost Bende, Gerhard Bendl, John Wolfe, Steve Riddle, Patti Keyes, Beth Dunn, Ron Searfoss, and Mike McGeath, the current Board of Directors who have shown the continued dedication to make the Village of La Jolla, the "Jewel of the California Coast" for now and many years to come.

A FAREWELL TO DR. DOWNING

HON. STEVE C. LATOURETTE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 1997

Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Speaker, on a December morning in 1996, Lake County Coroner William C. Downing walked into my district office in Painesville, OH, with a photograph taken 44 years earlier in Okinawa, Japan. The photograph showed a young Dr. Downing being presented with a scroll of appreciation from the Governor of Okinawa.

About the time Dr. Downing stopped by my office, there had been a rash of bad publicity about U.S. servicemen in Okinawa following the rape of a 12-year-old girl. Dr. Downing, a former Army surgeon, was distressed by it all, and remembered how warmly he had been received by the Okinawan people nearly five decades earlier. He hoped that the story behind the aging photograph might make up for some of the negative images Okinawans had of Americans in uniform.

Doc, as he was known by everyone in Lake County, handed one of my caseworkers the photograph, taken January 9, 1952, and asked for our assistance in locating the folks in the picture. We realistically did not know if we would be successful, as the picture had been taken almost a half century earlier. But Dr. Downing was adamant about trying to find out what became of the people in the photograph, especially the 4-year-old girl who was held by her parents. After all, in 1952 he performed life-saving surgery on the child in the photograph, Sachiko Ikei.

Dr. Downing recalled how the little girl had swallowed a game piece about the size of a checker, and for more than a week it had

been lodged in her throat. Her parents had taken her to every doctor on the island but no one could help her. Young Sachiko was unable to eat and could barely drink. "The doctors said to take her home and let her die," Doc recalled.

As a last resort, Sachiko's parents brought her to Ryukyus Army Hospital in Okinawa where Dr. Downing, then about 30 years old, was chief of general surgery. Dr. Downing, the handsome, young American surgeon, agreed to perform lifesaving surgery on the little girl, at no cost to her family or the Okinawan Government.

As Dr. Downing explained it to us, there was no hesitation in his decision to save the little girl's life. He had never forgotten the first autopsy he performed as a young physician in training. It was in 1946 in Cleveland, and a 5-year-old boy had died after choking on a bean from a toy beanbag. Dr. Downing recalled removing the swollen lima bean blocking the boy's larynx, and thought it so senseless that an innocent child had died from playing with a toy. Six years later, he had the chance to save a child in a similar predicament, and he did. He made an incision in the girl's neck, and then entered her esophagus to retrieve the game piece.

Over the years, Dr. Downing married, had a family, and worked for 30 years as a general surgeon before becoming the Lake County Coroner in 1985. Over the years he thought about the little Okinawan girl often, but never knew what became of her or her family. Shortly after leaving Okinawa, he had been transferred to Tokyo, where he served as chief of surgery in a M*A*S*H hospital for the tail end of the Korean war.

Although Dr. Downing had never forgotten Sachiko, it took the rape of a 12-year-old girl in Okinawa to prompt him to start his search for the child he had saved decades earlier. His wife, Jan, after much searching, found the photo in a box of old memorabilia.

Armed with nothing more than an aging photograph, our office set out to find the people in the picture. We contacted Army officials, the U.S. State Department, and the congressional affairs section of the Embassy of Japan. Dr. Downing believed if the people in the photograph were still alive, someone would be able to locate them. He never imagined it would happen so fast, however.

Within 2 weeks of receiving the photograph, our office was able to determine the whereabouts of all those in the photograph. Most of the folks in the photo had passed away, including Sachiko's father, who had died in 1970. Sachiko's mother, meanwhile, was alive and well and lived in Okinawa. The little girl in the kimono, then just 4 years old, was now a mother and grandmother. She lives in Opelika, AL, and works for the State of Alabama for the department of vocational rehabilitation. Her name is Sachiko I. Thompson.

The first time Dr. Downing called Sachiko she wept, as she had never had been able to thank the kind American doctor who had saved her life. As it turned out, Sachiko had moved to the United States in 1973 and had never returned home to Okinawa in all those years. She had met an American while working in a photography studio in Okinawa, and wound up marrying his brother.

Sachiko said she often wondered what happened to the American doctor, and remembers trying to learn more about him when she was